

Congressional District and continuing through to my time in the Senate, my staff and I worked with Mark and the council to complete numerous infrastructure projects; as a result, we provided potable water to thousands of West Virginians. I have always appreciated the technical assistance and knowledge that Mark and his staff bring to any undertaking. These projects are not always the most glamorous, but they are necessary for the health of the people we serve.

In 2006, Mark was promoted to executive director of the regional planning council. In this role, Mark successfully worked alongside local, county, and State leaders to achieve many goals throughout the region. Mark was consistent in his determination to utilize region III's resources in the most efficient manner possible.

One highlight of Mark's career includes working with the West Virginia Division of Highways and the U.S. Department of Transportation to build the Saint Albans—Nitro Bridge. This was a major achievement that required patience and diligent planning to complete. Through a clever design variation, millions of taxpayer dollars were saved, and the project was completed ahead of schedule. I commend Mark and his team for working skillfully with Federal and State partners to accomplish this huge undertaking under budget and on time. Time and again, Mark exhibited great leadership and wisdom in his roles with the regional planning council and has made a lasting difference in the health and safety of residents of Kanawha, Clay, Boone, and Putnam Counties.

In his spare time, Mark actively participates in local theater activities in the Kanawha Valley, acting in roles for the Charleston Light Opera Guild and Kanawha Players. In addition, he previously served as president of the Children's Theater of Charleston. Hopefully he will continue with his passion, as I have always enjoyed seeing him on stage.

Mark is also a member of Kanawha United Presbyterian Church where he actively participates in the church and bell choirs. Additionally, he is a property trustee of the church and plans to be more involved in both internal operations and outreach ministries after his retirement. Mark and his wife, Kerry, a kindergarten teacher for Kanawha County Schools, have two children, Erin and Patrick.

I wish Mark a fond farewell and the best of luck to him and his family in the next phase of their lives. Our State owes Mark a debt of gratitude for his hard work and dedication to his community. It has been a privilege working with him, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mark on a wonderful career.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR DONNALEE LOZEAU

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Nashua Mayor Donnalee Lozeau. As a resident of Nashua, I am so proud to call Donnalee my mayor. She is an extraordinary public servant, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude as she approaches the conclusion of her two terms serving the people of the Gate City.

As a third generation resident of Nashua and a graduate of the city's public school system, Donnalee cares deeply about Nashua's future, and she has a long record of service to the people of our city. That includes her previous service to Nashua in the New Hampshire House of Representatives for eight terms, earning the role of deputy speaker. She has always been known for her independent leadership, her commitment to bringing people together to build consensus, and for ensuring that government is responsive and efficient on behalf of hard-working taxpayers. Donnalee grasps the qualities of what makes our State unique, and in turn, she leads with a passion for problem-solving and a dedication to delivering results. She truly listens to everyone and communicates in sincere and candid terms—which I believe makes her an exceptional leader. In addition, as Nashua's first female mayor, Donnalee is an inspiration for young women in our State to pursue public service.

Under her leadership, Nashua's growth and resilience as a city helped lead to major accomplishments in infrastructure, public education, new business sectors, and companies. Donnalee brought her welcoming, honest, and accessible approach to governing and enhanced the reputation of the city of Nashua by exemplifying those values. In addition to her tireless work at city hall, she has also been an active leader promoting philanthropic, cultural, and business activity across the city. As part of her ongoing dedication to serving Nashua's community and those in need, Donnalee will continue to contribute to our city as executive director of Southern New Hampshire Services, a nonprofit social services agency. Her legacy is also being honored by Nashua's Rivier University with the creation of the Mayor Donnalee Lozeau Leadership Scholarship, which will be used to support the development of many generations of new leaders to come.

As Donnalee prepares to leave city hall, I would like to thank her for the thousands of hours she devoted to making Nashua an even better place to live, work, and raise a family. I am so grateful for Donnalee's leadership, commitment, and friendship, and I wish her all the best as she begins the next chapter of her career. •

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT E. WOLVERTON, SR.

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend the remarkable 66-year, and still counting, career of Mississippi State University professor and lifelong educator, Robert E. "Bob" Wolverton, Sr., of Starkville, MS. His many years of hard work and dedication continue to inspire the Mississippi State family to learn more and achieve more for the betterment of our State and Nation. I congratulate Dr. Wolverton for his important contributions to higher education throughout his distinguished career. He and his wife, Peggy, are well respected and admired throughout the university and community.

Mr. President, I ask that a December 1, 2015, article from Mississippi State University, titled "MSU honors Wolverton with naming of new building rotunda," be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

[From the Mississippi State University, Dec. 1, 2015]

MSU HONORS WOLVERTON WITH NAMING OF NEW BUILDING ROTUNDA (By Harriet Laird)

STARKVILLE, MS.—An accomplished professor and lifelong educator whose career spans more than six decades will be honored by Mississippi State with the naming of a select area in one of the university's newest and largest buildings.

Robert E. "Bob" Wolverton Sr., former vice president for academic affairs and longtime professor of classics, will see his name etched into the rotunda of MSU's new classroom building, a 150,000 square foot structure currently under construction in the heart of the 137-year-old campus. The honor comes while the 90-year-old educator is still active as a member of the MSU faculty.

Seeing more than 2,000 students walk each day through the facility's rotunda once construction is completed in the fall of 2016, this naming reflects Wolverton's dedication to educating students for 66 years, 38 of those at Mississippi State.

"Simply put, Dr. Wolverton is a venerable institution at our university," said MSU President Mark E. Keenum. "At an age where most professors have long since retired, Dr. Wolverton continues to inspire his students, his colleagues, and this administration through his true wisdom and the passion he still has for the subject matter he imparts. What a fitting honor that the rotunda in one of our soon-to-be iconic buildings will forever bear his name."

Wolverton began his tenure at MSU in 1977 when he became the university's vice president of academic affairs, having served previously as president for the College of Mount St. Joseph in Ohio. In 1986, he began teaching in the Department of Foreign Languages, now the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures, serving as the unit's head from 1991-1996.

A two-term chair of MSU's Robert Holland Faculty Senate, he last held the title eight years ago at age 82, with many regarding him as the "elder statesman" in such a position at any college or university.

Also an MSU John Grisham Master Teacher, the highest honor given for excellence in classroom instruction, Wolverton has been honored with the MSU Alumni Association Faculty Achievement Award and College of Arts and Sciences Humanist Award.

"All of us admire Bob Wolverton for his unwavering commitment to excellence in

teaching and to the students of MSU," said Jerry Gilbert, MSU provost and executive vice president. "Through his many years of service, he has established himself as a tremendous asset to the university. I am so proud that we have chosen to recognize Bob by naming the rotunda in his honor."

Wolverton holds a bachelor's degree in classics from Hanover (Indiana) College, a master's from the University of Michigan, and a doctorate from the University of North Carolina. He has been on the faculty at the University of Georgia, and Tufts and Florida State universities.

Active in the community, he was honored in 2001 as one of Mississippi's "Ageless Heroes" by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Mississippi. He has served as a board member for the Starkville Friends of the Library, president of the Starkville-MSU Symphony Association, and was a founding member of the Starkville Community Theatre.●

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN J. NOLAN

● Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise to honor a Nebraskan who was recently interred at Arlington National Cemetery. Lt. Col. John J. Nolan of Lincoln, NE, was a U.S. Air Force pilot who deserves our respect and gratitude. After the bombing at Pearl Harbor, he gave up a football scholarship at Temple University to enlist in the Army Air Corps in 1943.

During World War II, John was a B-25 aircraft commander with the heralded Air Apaches, 345th Bombardment Group, assigned to the Fifth Air Force operating in the Southwest Pacific.

In this capacity, he flew low-level strafing missions in specially configured B-25s with eight .50-caliber machine guns that were controlled by pilots. He flew in the Black Sunday raid on Hollandia, New Guinea, on April 16, 1944. This raid became the worst operational loss ever suffered by the Fifth Air Force in a single day.

Following World War II, the Air Force realized more pilots had been lost on instruments than in actual combat. In response, the Instrument Pilot Instruction School was created. John was one of the initial cadre of pilots tasked with providing standardized instrument procedures, techniques, and training methods. These pilots were also required to test and evaluate flight instruments in adverse weather conditions. During this period, he became the B-25 high-time pilot for the entire U.S. Air Force.

John also wrote a substantial part of the instrument flying guidelines, known as Air Force Manual 51-37. Many pilots owe their lives to this manual. As a matter of fact, when his two sons went through pilot training in 1967 and 1973, respectively, his instructions were still in the manual.

John transitioned to F-86s as a part of the Air Force's newly created All Weather Interceptors. He also served in Japan during the Korean war.

In the 1960s, when commercial aviation was converting to jet-powered aircraft and entering into military airspace at high altitudes, John was as-

signed to Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, known as Air Defense Command. He became the Air Force liaison to the FAA Central Region, and he was tasked with developing and coordinating procedures to ensure safe arrival and departures within this shared airspace. In this capacity, John was also responsible for maintaining military readiness and operational capabilities.

Upon his retirement in October 1963, John was chosen to serve as the Midwest recruiter for the Air Force Academy.

John dedicated his entire life to his beloved U.S. Air Force. Not only did he serve honorably, John was also an integral participant in so many of the milestones that are now a part of Air Force history.

John never lost his love of flight. He continued to fly well into his late eighties in his restored Fairchild PT 19/26, which is the same aircraft he initially learned to fly in as a cadet in the Army Air Corps.

Lt. Col. John Nolan's entire life was for God and country. He married Marie Di Giambattista on January 6, 1944, before he was assigned overseas. Together, they raised four children. Marie sacrificed much, as so many of our military families experience today, moving 23 times in John's 20-year career. They were married 71 years. Only 27 days after Marie passed, John died this past July 3, 2015, at the age of 94.

We owe a debt of gratitude to John Nolan and his family. He led an extraordinary life at a time when our country needed people like him the most. Through all of this, he remained humble. We will never forget his sacrifices and patriotism.●

TRIBUTE TO FRED GRAY

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the life and accomplishments of civil rights attorney Fred Gray, Sr., of Montgomery, AL.

Fred Gray was born in Montgomery, AL, on December 14, 1930. He attended the Nashville Christian Institute and received a baccalaureate degree from the then-Alabama State College for Negroes. From there, he went on to receive a law degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, OH. Mr. Gray passed the bar examination and returned to his home town of Montgomery to establish a law office. He dedicated himself to the goal of "destroying everything segregated he could find." He also began preaching at the Holt Street Church of Christ.

During the 1950s and 1960s civil rights movement, Mr. Gray worked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., E.D. Nixon, and other leaders of the movement. He represented Claudette Colvin and Rosa Parks, who were charged with disorderly conduct for refusing to seat themselves in the rear of segregated city buses. Mr. Gray also successfully defended Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., against tax evasion charges.

In addition, he represented the Montgomery Improvement Association during the more than yearlong Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955, which ultimately led to the United States Supreme Court case *Browder v. Gayle*. This case was filed by Mr. Gray. Additionally, Mr. Gray filed and argued the historic and much-cited case of *Gomillion v. Lightfoot* before the U.S. Supreme Court, which overturned State redistricting of Tuskegee, AL. After this case, Mr. Gray continued to lead legal efforts to desegregate schools in Alabama.

In 1970, Mr. Gray was one of the first African Americans elected as a State legislator in Alabama. However, he did not allow his new role to prevent him from continuing to represent local Alabamians in the judicial system.

In the early 1970s, Mr. Gray represented plaintiffs in the class-action lawsuit regarding the Federal Tuskegee syphilis study and succeeded in securing appropriate damages and restitutions for 72 study survivors. As a result of efforts led by Mr. Gray, President Clinton invited the study survivors and their families to a ceremony at the White House, where he officially apologized for the actions of the Federal Government regarding the study.

In 2002, Fred Gray became the first African-American president of the Alabama Bar Association. Mr. Gray has spent his life working to achieve equal justice and liberty for the citizens of Alabama. His dedication to the civil rights movement is unequalled, and we are all grateful for the tireless work he has done on behalf of all Americans.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 4, 2015, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. COMSTOCK) had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 22. An act to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.